

A Voice From The Dead

Luke 16:19-31

Pastor Zac Nazarian

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What if we could hear voices from the dead?

- What would they tell us?
- What difference would it make to us?
- Would we be assured or alarmed?

Jesus tells a gripping account in 3 acts

Act I (vss 19-21) is a study in contrasts.

How do the lives of the rich man and Lazarus compare on earth?

Act II (vs22) – We are witness to a stunning reversal

- The rich man is in Hell.
- Lazarus is in Paradise.

Act III (vss 23-31)

How do the lives of the rich man and Lazarus compare after death?

What does the rich man ask for in verse 24?

What determines who enters heaven?

**How good or righteous must a person be to enter heaven?
What do men say? What does the Bible say?**

What is Abraham saying to us in verse 29?

In this drama Jesus allows us to see not only what is beyond life – but also the inseparable link between life as we live it now and how we will spend eternity.

Five things we can learn from Jesus' drama:

1) Jesus tells us that we will all live forever.

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" NIV

2) Jesus tells us there are two distinct realms after death.

**Jesus' question must be answered, "Do you believe?"
YES OR NO**

3) What we believe and what we do about what we believe determines our eternal destiny.

Everything, now and forever depends on how you answer.

4) Jesus exposes the impotence of death.

Jesus is the lone voice from the dead – our basis of eternal hope is in our response to His voice.

5) Jesus teaches that death is final and that there can be no communication with those on this side of the grave.

There is only one voice back from the dead – His name is Jesus.